

HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 1001

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE;
PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF LAND PARCELS FOR A STATE
VETERANS' CEMETERY; CREATING A FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 28-13-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,
Chapter 252, Section 33) is amended to read:

"28-13-1. SHORT TITLE. -- [~~Sections 74-1-1 through 74-1-12~~
~~NMSA 1953~~] Chapter 28, Article 13 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the
"Veterans' Service Act". "

Section 2. A new section of the Veterans' Service Act is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] FINDINGS-- STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY FUND
CREATED-- PURPOSE. --

A. The legislature finds that:

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1 (1) the federal veterans' administration has
2 no plans to establish or expand national cemeteries in New
3 Mexico and, as space in the Santa Fe national cemetery will
4 soon be depleted, the state has an obligation to find land for
5 the establishment of a veterans' cemetery as a suitable
6 alternative for the respectful interment of its veterans;

7 (2) parcels of state land have been identified
8 as possible areas for a future veterans' cemetery, but studies
9 need to be conducted to assess their appropriateness and the
10 feasibility of such a project; and

11 (3) upon the state providing land for the
12 purpose of building a veterans' cemetery, the federal veterans'
13 administration has a state cemetery grants program through
14 which the state could receive financial and maintenance
15 assistance for the building and upkeep of the proposed
16 veterans' cemetery.

17 B. The New Mexico veterans' service commission is
18 the state agency responsible for the establishment of a state
19 veterans' cemetery and for the collection and disbursement of
20 all money collected or received pursuant to state or federal
21 law for that purpose and may exercise any power incidental
22 thereto.

23 C. The "state veterans' cemetery fund" is created
24 in the state treasury. The fund consists of all money
25 appropriated to it and all money collected or received by the

1 state for purposes of establishing a state veterans' cemetery.
 2 Money in the fund is appropriated to the New Mexico veterans'
 3 service commission for the purpose of carrying out the
 4 provisions of this section. All earnings of the fund shall be
 5 credited to the fund. Disbursements of the fund shall be made
 6 by warrant of the department of finance and administration
 7 pursuant to vouchers signed by a designated representative of
 8 the New Mexico veterans' service commission. Any unexpended or
 9 unencumbered balance remaining in the fund at the end of any
 10 fiscal year shall not revert to any other fund but shall remain
 11 to the credit of the fund. "

12 Section 3. APPROPRIATION. -- Fifty thousand dollars
 13 (\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the state
 14 veterans' cemetery fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2004 and
 15 subsequent fiscal years for the purpose of conducting a study
 16 of parcels of state land in Albuquerque in Bernalillo county
 17 and other available state lands, as well as private donated
 18 lands, to assess their suitability for a state veterans'
 19 cemetery. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at
 20 the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

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